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REMEMBERING AND CELEBRATING

Unifying Topic: GOD CALLS PEOPLE TO REMEMBER

Lesson Text

I A New Life (Deuteronomy 16:1)

II The Passover Sacrifice (Deuteronomy 16:2)

III The Unleavened Bread (Deuteronomy 16:3-8)

The Main Thought: Observe the month of Abib, and keep the Passover unto the Lord thy God: for in the month of Abib the Lord thy God brought thee forth out of Egypt by night (Deuteronomy 16:1 KJV).

Unifying Principle: Individual persons and communities regularly remember and celebrate great occasions with thanksgiving. How do we commemorate significant events in our lives? God commanded the Israelites to remember their deprivation by eating only unleavened bread and simple meat at sundown.

Lesson Aim: Students are encouraged to recount the first Passover celebration and understand the significance of occasions that call for commemoration and praise.

Life aim: Observance of religious celebrations helps people recall God's prior acts of salvation, mercy, justice, and love and leads people to acknowledge their dependence on God.

[KJV SCRIPTURES – DEUTERONOMY 16:1-8](#)

16:1 Observe the month of Abib, and keep the passover unto the LORD thy God: for in the month of Abib the LORD thy God brought thee forth out of Egypt by night.

16:2 Thou shalt therefore sacrifice the passover unto the LORD thy God, of the flock and the herd, in the place which the LORD shall choose to place his name there.

16:3 Thou shalt eat no leavened bread with it; seven days shalt thou eat unleavened bread therewith, even the bread of affliction; for thou camest forth out of the land of Egypt in haste: that thou mayest remember the day when thou camest forth out of the land of Egypt all the days of thy life.

16:4 And there shall be no leavened bread seen with thee in all thy coast seven days; neither shall there any thing of the flesh, which thou sacrificedst the first day at even, remain all night until the morning.

16:5 Thou mayest not sacrifice the passover within any of thy gates, which the LORD thy God giveth thee:

16:6 But at the place which the LORD thy God shall choose to place his name in, there thou shalt sacrifice the passover at even, at the going down of the sun, at the season that thou camest forth out of Egypt.

16:7 And thou shalt roast and eat it in the place which the LORD thy God shall choose: and thou shalt turn in the morning, and go unto thy tents.

16:8 Six days thou shalt eat unleavened bread: and on the seventh day shall be a solemn assembly to the LORD thy God: thou shalt do no work therein

HISTORY:

Egypt was a type of sin. The Jews were in captivity in slavery and bondage to the Egyptians. Egypt was called "the land of leeks and garlic." It exemplified worldliness and sin.

There was only one way that redemption could come, deliverance could come, victory could come. It had to come through the shedding of blood!

God told Moses to take a lamb (Ex.12:3). It was to be slaughtered. The lamb was their means of escape, their means of deliverance, their way out of sin, slavery and bondage, out of Egypt! Not just in the killing of the lamb, but in the shedding of its blood (Ex.12:7).

They were to take the blood and cover all the doorposts on three sides with it. The blood was to be a sign to God, when He brought destruction to His enemies. The blood would provide their protection, their escape from death, their victory (Ex.12:13)

This was only the first step. The children of Israel had to take the lamb, roast it, and eat it (Ex.12:8-11). Why? Because they had a journey to take and a battle to win. The blood would not be sufficient to take them through their problem, through their trial, or their circumstance. It would take more.

By eating the lamb, it gave them strength for the journey, strength for the march, strength for their coming out! For there was power in the lamb that kept them going through this march right out of Egypt! This was an hour God ordained from the foundation of the world.

Now in commemoration, Israel was commanded to appear before Jehovah at His appointed place three times a year (v.16) to celebrate the **Feast of the Passover** - which began on the eve of the fourteenth day of the first month. Jewish months were determined by the moon. The Passover commemorated the night that the death angel of the Lord "passed over" the Israelite houses in Egypt. In the last of the ten plagues, he killed the firstborn son, wherever there was no blood on the doorposts (read Ex. 12:1-28). A lamb was slain and eaten with bitter herbs and unleavened bread as a memorial.

Passover was immediately followed by the **Feast of Unleavened Bread** (v. 2-8), and lasted for seven days named for the bread without yeast that the people carried in their hasty departure from slavery. This festival took place in the month of Abib, a fresh start for God's people. All Jewish men were required to be present at this feast. Abib (Heb. 'abib) means "green ears." The first month of the year came in the spring, when the land turned green. The third feast mentioned, the **Feast of Tabernacles** which is not a part of our lesson (v.13-25), ran for eight days, from the fifteenth to the twenty-second of the month.

POINT:

There were two reasons for abstinence from leaven; first, to remind Israel that they had left Egypt in haste and were unable to leaven their dough; second, because leaven in the dough is the result of fermentation or decaying, and hence, a symbol of evil.

POINT:

Moses repeats two points of law regarding the Passover; first, that no leaven could be seen in the land during this time; second, that none of the flesh of the paschal lamb could be left over until the following morning. Moses also reminds Israel that every Jew had to travel to the central place of worship. Immediately after celebrating the Passover, they were to turn in the morning, and go unto their tents (they were allowed to go home).

For the first Passover, the unleavened bread was a practical necessity; they left Egypt in such a hurry, there was no time to allow the dough to rise. However, all the Festivals instituted by God, including Passover and Unleavened Bread were shadows of things to come (Col.2:17)

Jesus ate the Passover with His disciples, saying that He had eagerly desired to eat this Passover with them before he suffered and that He would not eat it again until the kingdom of God comes. Prophetically, the feast of Unleavened Bread relates to the time of Jesus' burial, after His perfect, sinless sacrifice on the cross, during which He was received by God the Father as holy and complete (the Holy One who would not see corruption, Acts 2:27), who perfectly accomplishing our salvation.

Anytime there is a new life, there is celebration; however, their celebration was a command by God. This was to be a solemn (formal, religious) meeting in honor of the Lord (v.8). This was also freedom to own land and flocks and to plant crops.

APPLICATION:

The Lord's Supper for us is a remembrance of Jesus' sacrifice as the perfect Passover Lamb and the fulfillment of the New Covenant between God and man (Lk.22:20; Eph.2:11-13). This remembrance is a memorial and honors, and thanks God for what He has done. Way back then and to generations to come, we are to remember and celebrate our new life because of what Christ has done.